

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3009

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7505

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH KIM YONG-SAM

REF: SEOUL 5401 (DTG 190212Z JUL 75)

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADER KIM YONG-SAM AT THE RESIDENCE SEPT. 23, KIM DISCUSSED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PLANS, HIS SUMMONS' FROM THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, AND HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT TRIP THROUGH EAST ASIA. END SUMMARY.

2. KIM PLANS TO FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT SAYS HE EXPECTS TO DEMONSTRATE OPPOSITION STANCE BY REFERRING TO NEED FOR EVENTUAL CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION IN ONE OR TWO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEECHES. HE CLAIMS TO BE UNDER SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE BOTH FROM WITHIN HIS PARTY AND FROM THE ELECTORATE TO SPEAK OUT MORE IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND CONTENTS HIS MODERATE POSTURE PAST SPRING AND SUMMER SUBJECT TO CRITICISM. HE ALSO SAID THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN WAS PRESSING FOR MORE DEMOCRACY IN KOREA AND IMPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED INTERNATIONAL OPINION WOULD

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MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT FOR THE PAK GOVERNMENT IF KIM'S REMARKS

GOT HIM THROWN IN JAIL. IN SIMILAR VEIN, KIM WAS MORE CIRCUMSPECT THAN IN OUR LAST TALK WITH HIM (REFTEL) ON POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT PARK.

3. KIM SAID DRP LEADERSHIP AND YUCHONGHOE NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN WERE LIKELY TO TAKE A HARD-LINE STANCE IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AND POLICIES IN FALL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. DRP LEADERSHIP WILL BE TRYING TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION IN FACE OF LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR AND YUCHONGHOE MEMBERS WHOSE TERMS WILL EXPIRE NEXT YEAR WILL BE VYING FOR REAPPOINTMENT. ALL-IN-ALL KIM SAW LITTLE PROSPECT FOR GOVERNMENT CONCESSIONS IN THIS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

4. KIM SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN ARRESTING HIS SECRETARY, PAK KWON-HUM, AND TAKING HIM TO THE JAIL IN MANACLES, ONLY TO RELEASE HIM WITHOUT JAILING HIM. HE SAID RELEASE WITHOUT INCARCERATION WAS UNPRECEDENTED AND SPECULATED THAT CIA DIRECTOR HAD ORDERED ARREST ONLY TO HAVE ORDER COUNTERMANDED BY THE BLUE HOUSE BEFORE PAK COULD BE JAILED.

5. KIM SAID HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK WHEN HIS FIRST SUMMONS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FOR QUESTIONING REGARDING HIS AUGUST 23 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SECOND AND THEN A THIRD SUMMONS. HE HAD INITIALLY EXPECTED GOVERNMENT TO LET MATTER DROP AFTER FIRST SUMMONS. HE NOW HAS NO IDEA WHAT THE PROSECUTOR PLANS NEXT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD TO TAKE POLITICAL RISK INVOLVED IN SENDING HIM TO JAIL.

6. KIM SAID HIS TRIP TO MANILA , HONG KONG, TAIPEI AND TOKYO AUGUST 4-19 HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY REWARDING. MANILA AND TOKYO WERE THE HIGH POINTS. PRESIDENT MARCOS ASSURED HIM THAT PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION OF PRC WOULD NOT AFFECT THE ROP'S STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNISM. KIM WAS SURPRISED BY LACK OF PHYSICAL SECURITY AROUND MARCOS IN A SOCIETY HE HAD APPARENTLY EXPECTED TO FIND GROANING UNDER BURDEN OF AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT. KIM SAID MARCOS AND ROMULO TOLD HIM THAT THE KOREAN PROBLEM WAS NOT AN AGENDA ITEM IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRC LEADERS BUT IT HAD COME UP IN COURSE OF MORE GENERAL DISCUSSIONS. ROMULO TOLD KIM THAT TENG HSIAO PING HAD SAID PRC HAD WARNED THE DPRK NOT TO ENGAGE IN HOSTILE-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIES ON KOREAN PENINSULA.

7. IN TOKYO, PM MIKI IMPRESSED KIM BY MAKING ROOM FOR HIM ON HIS SCHEDULE ON THE FIRST DAY AFTER MIKI'S RETURN FROM THE U.S. ACCORDING TO KIM, MIKI EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN ASSURING POLITICAL STABILITY. KIM SAID MIKI VIRTUALLY EXHORTED HIM TO STRUGGLE HARD TO PRESERVE AND

PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN KOREA.
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